

REMARKS

This paper is intended as a full and complete response to the non-final Office Action dated January 5, 2010. In the Office Action, it is noted that claims 1-24 are pending, of which claims 1-17 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 18-24 stand rejected.

Claims 1-17 and 22-24 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claim 18 has been amended. New claims 25-27 have been added which correspond to original claims 15-17. No new matter has been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following discussion, it is believed that the present application is now in allowable form.

I. Examiner Interview

Applicants thank the Examiner and the Examiner's supervisor (Mr. Mark Spisich) for the courtesies extended during a telephonic interview with applicants' representatives, Theodore J. Pierson and Thomas E. Spath, on June 4, 2010. During the interview, certain limitations of claim 18 were discussed in relation to the cited art. The Examiner then suggested which limitations to specifically point out in applicants' Response to the Office Action.

II. Objections to the drawings

Claims 22-24 have been cancelled without prejudice, and therefore any objections to the drawings are now moot.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Objections to the claims

Claim 24 has been cancelled without prejudice, and therefore any objections to the claims are now moot.

Therefore, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 18 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over USP 6,299,699 to Porat (hereinafter “Porat”) in view of USP 4,786,334 to Nystrom (hereinafter “Nystrom”).

Claims 19 and 20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porat and Nystrom and further in view of USP 2,640,338 to Charvat (hereinafter “Charvat”).

Claim 21 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porat and Nystrom and further in view of USP 2,329,153 to Bromley (hereinafter “Bromley”).

Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porat and Nystrom and further in view of USP 5,074,825 to Hamasaki (hereinafter “Hamasaki”).

Claim 23 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Porat and Nystrom and further in view of USP 2,284,070 to Roof (hereinafter “Roof”).

It is respectfully submitted that independent claim 18, as amended, is patentable over the cited references for at least the following reasons.

First, claim 18 requires “a rotational delay clutch assembly that is co-axially positioned between each pair of the first and second brushes” (emphasis added).

By way of comparison, Porat in view of Nystrom does not disclose or suggest this limitation.

Second, claim 18 requires a delay clutch structured so that “a reversal in the direction of rotation of the first pair of motor-driven brushes temporarily disengages the clutch from driving the second pair of brushes thereby pivoting the pool cleaner through a predetermined angular change in direction before the clutch reengages with the second pair of brushes thereby initiating the synchronous rotation of the second pair of brushes” (emphasis added). The rotational delay clutch assembly recited by claim 18 disengages/engages in response to a reversal in the direction of rotation of the motor-driven brushes. In addition, the rotational delay clutch assembly required by claim 18 is a simple mechanical structure that does not require complex electrical circuitry or electro-mechanical devices to engage/disengage the second pair of rotating brushes.

By way of comparison, the postulated “clutch” of Porat in view of Nystrom is a magnetic coupling which only engages/disengages in response to electrical signals and, therefore, the “clutch” does not engage/disengage in response to a reversal in the direction of rotation of the drive wheels 2, 3 (see Nystrom; Fig. 2).

Accordingly, the combination of Porat in view of Nystrom fails to disclose or suggest each and every feature of claim 18, as arranged in the claim. It is respectfully submitted that present claim 18 fully satisfies the requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and is patentable thereunder.

Claims 19-21 depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 18 and recite additional inventive features. As such, and for at least the same reasons discussed above, it is submitted that these dependent claims also fully satisfy the requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 103 and are patentable thereunder.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

V. Extension of time

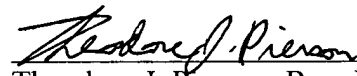
Submitted herewith is a Petition for a two-month time extension.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and discussion presented above, the applicants submit that this paper responds to all of the points raised in the Office Action. Thus, it is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both favorable reconsideration of this application and prompt issuance of a notice of allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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